

CONTEXT

- Zambia is susceptible to recurrent climatic and other natural shocks—including localized dry spells, floods, and pest infestations—that disrupt harvests and limit the availability of grazing land for livestock, resulting in reduced food production and higher food prices. In addition, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related COVID-19 mitigation measures have reduced livelihood opportunities, decreasing households' purchasing power and access to food, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).¹
- An estimated 1.7 million people—or approximately 25 percent of the country's population—likely experienced acute food insecurity conditions during the peak of Zambia's agricultural lean season between February and March 2021, when food is scarcest, according to a March IPC analysis. Despite above-average harvests in 2021 due to heavy rainfall in recent months, the UN projects that vulnerable Zambian households will continue to require emergency food assistance through the year, as compounded food security shocks and the risk of additional threats to food security, like flooding, may further restrict access to food in Zambia. In addition, African migratory locust infestations in southern and western Zambia continue to threaten agricultural livelihoods and local food production. Widespread food insecurity is also contributing to malnutrition, with an estimated 134,000 children ages five years and younger currently experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—in Zambia, according to a December 2020 UN report.
- Nearly 100,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Rwanda are currently sheltering in urban areas and refugee settlements throughout Zambia, including approximately 17,000 individuals residing at the Mantapala settlement in Luapula Province's Nchelenge District, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Approximately 90 percent of all households at Mantapala remain fully dependent on multi-sector humanitarian assistance, according to a May assessment by UNHCR and the UN World Food Program (WFP).



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports WFP in providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable households in Zambia. With more than \$3.1 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 support from USAID/BHA, WFP distributed nearly 2,400 metric tons (MT) of yellow split peas to vulnerable

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

households located throughout 10 drought- and flood-affected districts in Zambia’s eastern, southern, and western provinces between May 2020 and February 2021. USAID/BHA support also enabled WFP to provide approximately 140 MT of yellow split peas to supplement food assistance to nearly 14,000 refugees in Mantapala between June and December 2020.

- USAID/BHA continues to work with WFP to support food security in Mantapala. With approximately \$610,000 in funding from USAID/BHA in FY 2021 to date, WFP is providing monthly unconditional cash transfers to nearly 17,000 refugees sheltering in Mantapala to improve their food and nutritional security by increasing access to foods in local markets. In addition, the assistance will benefit local markets, likely improving relations between refugees and host communities in Mantapala, according to WFP.



Refugees receiving food rations at Mantapala Refugee Settlement.
Photo credit: WFP/Paul Mboshya

USAID/BHA Funding in Zambia ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$3,150,324	-	\$3,150,324
FY 2021	\$610,000	-	\$610,000

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 2, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.